



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

DYNAMIC PSYCHIATRY IN SIMPLE TERMS—Second Edition—Robert R. Mezer, M.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Boston University Medical School, and Associate Visiting Physician in Psychiatry, Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals. Foreword by Harry C. Solomon, M.D. Springer Publishing Company, Inc., 44 East 23rd Street, New York 10, N. Y., 1960. 178 pages, \$2.75.

Dr. Robert Mezer, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Boston University Medical School has had years of teaching experience in presenting psychiatry to students of medicine, nursing and social work. In this book, he has put this experience to good use in briefly outlining in simple layman's language, the emotional development of the individual, the classical psychiatric concepts and standard classifications of mental and emotional illness and a critical review of psychological and somatic treatment. His definitions, examples and explanations are clear-cut and easily understandable to the layman or the beginning student to whom psychiatry is all too frequently a hazy muddle of meaningless technical terminology. To the psychiatrically unsophisticated, it is an excellent introductory outline.

FRANK F. TALLMAN, M.D.

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VALVULAR DISEASE OF THE HEART IN OLD AGE—P. D. Bedford, M.D., M.R.C.P., Consultant Physician to the Cowley Road Hospital, Oxford; and F. I. Caird, D.M., M.R.C.P., Medical Registrar; lately Senior House Physician, Cowley Road Hospital, Oxford. Little, Brown and Company, 34 Beacon Street, Boston 6, Mass., 1960. 194 pages, 38 illustrations, \$7.50.

This small volume is a personal account of 3,000 patients, 65 years and over who were admitted to the Geriatric Service of the Cowley Road Hospital, Oxford. The clinical features and prognoses of all valvular diseases observed during this period are discussed in detail. This study is of great importance because it is a prospective study by an obviously qualified physician who attempted to answer many of the questions regarding valvular diseases in the aged, and many of his findings are of considerable interest.

The author commented that a consistent clinical manifestation of diseases of the aged is mental confusion, and this is true even in heart disease. He emphasizes a variety of clinical observations such as the value of orthopnea for distinguishing pulmonary from cardiac dyspnea, the relative importance of cough in cardiac failure and the lack of significance of the state of the radial vessel wall in the assessment of heart disease. Atrial fibrillation is a very important prognostic factor in congestive failure in the elderly and is a turning point in the life history of rheumatic heart disease, even after the age of 65. The author is convinced that mitral insufficiency is the dominant hemodynamic lesion in the majority of elderly patients.

Details are given of the history, physical and autopsy findings and diagnostic difficulties in pulmonary heart disease, aortic stenosis, aortic incompetence and syphilitic aortic incompetence. Chapters on the natural history of each of these diseases are of considerable value and the

complications in his 419 patients are discussed with considerable insight.

Prognoses are discussed and illustrated with a variety of significant tables providing some of the best data of which the reviewer is aware on the valvular diseases. The "life table method" and the comparison of the actual with the expected mortality is discussed in detail in the appendix. There is a first class bibliography for those who wish to pursue the subject further.

The monograph can be recommended highly.

MAURICE SOKOLOW, M.D.

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TEXTBOOK OF PATHOLOGY, A—An Introduction to Medicine—7th Edition, Thoroughly Revised—William Boyd, M.D., Dipl. Psychiat., M.R.C.P. (Edin.), Hon. F.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Can.), F.R.S. (Can.), LL.D. (Sask.), (Queen's), D.Sc. (Man.), M.D. (Oslo). Professor Emeritus of Pathology, The University of Toronto; Visiting Professor of Pathology, The University of Alabama; Formerly Professor of Pathology, The University of Manitoba and the University of British Columbia. Lea & Febiger, 600 South Washington Square, Philadelphia 6, Pa., 1961. 1370 pages, 792 illustrations and 20 plates in color, \$18.00.

Dr. Boyd has rewritten this well-known textbook in line with present-day thinking of pathologic processes as more than morphologic patterns. He deals with them as complex disorders involving chemical and functional changes that express themselves through alterations in tissue structure. This approach has resulted in greater emphasis upon principles of disease than in previous editions, although regional pathology still makes up about two-thirds of the book.

The material covered has been expanded, largely through the consideration of physiological aspects and of the relationship of lesions to symptoms of disease. Several new chapters present topics of recently acquired importance, such as immunity and hypersensitivity, ionizing radiation, and medical genetics. The illustrations, including many electron micrographs, are derived mostly from photographs and in general depict their lesions successfully. The book has been set in double column type which is easy to read.

As in his other writings on pathology Dr. Boyd has used his artistry with words to make vivid descriptions and comments that provide interesting reading. The student of medicine at any stage of his development will find this book enjoyable as well as informative. The author has expressed his own awareness of his problem as a single individual of providing an authoritative account of so many diverse areas of medical knowledge as are encompassed by modern pathology. In this difficult task he has succeeded in a large measure through an effort to include all important new advances and to merge them with existing concepts. This has led in places to speculation that is difficult to distinguish from more generally accepted conclusions but in most fields the discussion provides a good survey of current knowledge about disease.

ALVIN J. COX, M.D.